



Army Substance Abuse Program

Fort Jackson, S.C.



ARMY SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM (ASAP)

Civilian Employee Prevention and Training Part Three

MARIJUANA



THC (MARIJUANA)

- ✦ ***Introduction***
- ✦ ***Marijuana Pharmacology & Effects***
- ✦ ***Testing for marijuana***

Marijuana Bud



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INTRODUCTION

- ✦ **Marijuana is still the #1 illicit drug of choice in AMERICA**
- ✦ **Marijuana is considered to be a gateway drug to other drug use and abuse.**
- ✦ **Army Drug Policy – “ZERO TOLERANCE”**



Introduction: 1960's – 1970's



Aftermath of Vietnam



Drug treatment centers opened.



A decade of change



Drug screening labs upgraded to forensic



Mandatory urinalysis.

Introduction: War on Drugs

- ✦ **1980 33% Of The Military Reported Illicit Drug Use**
- ✦ **1981 - U.S.S. NIMITZ Crash of Marine Corps EA-6B**
- ✦ **Autopsies Of Killed Sailors And Marines Revealed THC in Six Bodies**
- ✦ **DOD Declared “War On Drugs.”**

Introduction: Attitudes

- **Shifting attitudes among parents of today's generation who themselves used marijuana in the 60's -70's.**



Introduction: Trends

- **More intense patterns of marijuana abuse such as “Blunt” marijuana cigars.**
- **Changes in public perception about marijuana as reflected by open use of the drug in film, media, musical recordings and rock or rap videos.**
- **\$\$ Marijuana can sell for \$600 an ounce, \$8,000 a pound, \$20 for a blunt cigar.**

Introduction: Trends

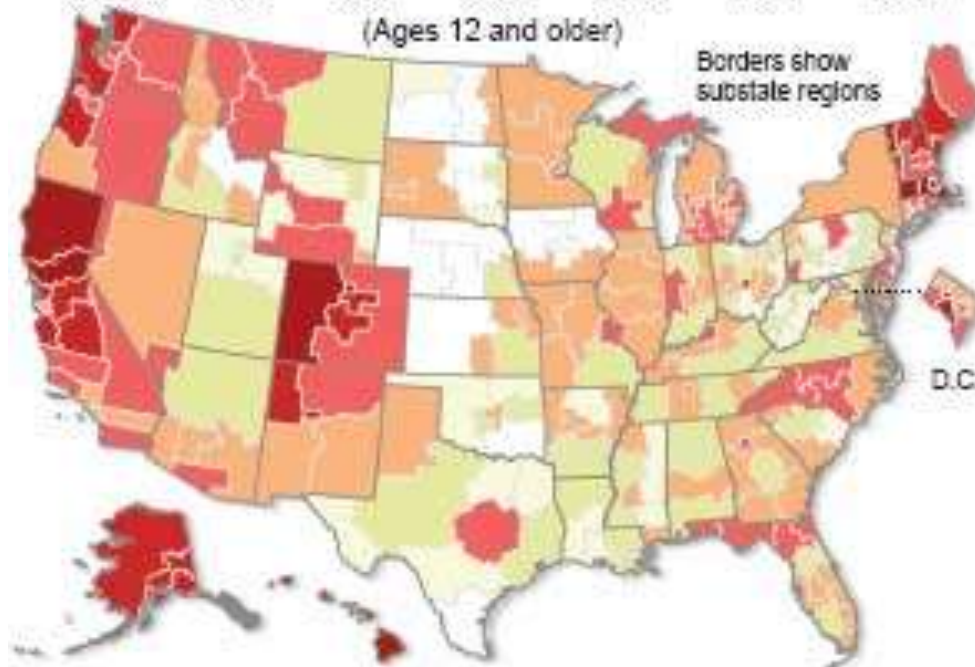
- **Pulmonary risks of smoking marijuana are often ignored.**
- **Addiction is associated with alcohol and other drugs – not marijuana.**
- **THC is psychologically addictive - abuse and addiction is frequently denied.**

MARIJUANA USE IN THE U.S.

Marijuana use nationally

An average of 5.1 percent of people nationally reported using marijuana, in the past month from 1999 to 2001.

Annual averages of marijuana use in past month, 1999-2001



SOURCE: Department of Health and Human Services

AP

Pharmacology Of Marijuana

- ✦ Marijuana is a psychoactive or mind altering drug.
- ✦ Psychoactive drugs can produce a mind state similar to psychosis.
 - ✦ Psychosis - A major mental disorder in which the personality is very seriously disorganized.

Pharmacology Of Marijuana

- ✦ **Marijuana is the term used in the U.S. to refer to the cannabis plant.**
- ✦ **Delta 9 - Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the active ingredient that causes the “high”.**
- ✦ **THC is much stronger today than in the 1960's:**
 - ✦ **1% THC content in 1960's**
 - ✦ **3 – 28% today**

Pharmacology Of Marijuana

- ✦ Recent domestic report revealed 29.86% THC content.
- ✦ Much more dangerous today.
- ✦ Mixing other drugs with THC by drug dealers and users.



Three Basic Forms

- ◆ **Marijuana** - Made from the leaves, flowers or stems of the hemp plant.
- ◆ **Hash/Hashish** - Concentrated form of marijuana by compressing marijuana resins into small blocks.
- ◆ **Hash Oil** - Made by soaking marijuana in a chemical solvent (such as rubbing alcohol) and then evaporating the solvent to obtain an oil concentrate.

Pharmacology

- **When smoked, the marijuana is absorbed through the capillaries in the lungs.**
- **When the marijuana is eaten, the chemicals are absorbed into the small intestines.**



Acute Effects

❖ **Euphoria**

❖ **Short Term
Memory Loss**

❖ **Increased Appetite**

❖ **Bloodshot Eyes**

❖ **Dry Mouth/Throat**

❖ **Sleepiness**



❖ **Increased Heart Rate**

❖ **Loss of Coordination**

❖ **Paranoia**

❖ **Hallucinations**

❖ **Chronic Panic Attacks**

❖ **Psychosis**

Acute Effects

- **Marijuana smoke contains more tar and cancer causing substances than tobacco smoke.**
- **Smoking one joint = five cigarettes.**
- **With one puff you inhale 150 cancer - causing substances and twice as much tar as with tobacco.**

Acute Effects

- **Smoking marijuana can cause:**
 - **Bronchitis**
 - **Lung cancer**
 - **Brain damage**
- **Smoking marijuana causes some neurotransmitters to clump up and become inactive.**
- **Neurotransmitters send messages throughout the brain for body functions.**
- **Interferes with thinking, ability to focus, memory lapses.**

Long Term Effects – Male Specific

- **Reduces male hormone testosterone.**
- **Sex organs do not function properly.**
- **Reduces sperm count in adult males.**
- **Ages 10-20 is when male sex organs are maturing.**
- **Use can cause long-term negative affects on sex organs.**

Long Term Effects – Female Specific

- **Testosterone increases causing facial hair, more body hair and acne.**
- **Decreased sexual pleasure.**
- **Disrupts menstrual cycles and ovulation.**

POT SUCKERS



POT SUCKERS

- Marijuana-flavored lollipops with names such as Purple Haze, Acapulco Gold and Rasta are showing up on the shelves of convenience stores around the country.
- The confections are legal, because they are made with hemp oil, a common ingredient in health food, beauty supplies and other household products.
- The oil imparts marijuana's grassy taste but not the high.

MARIJUANA TESTING

- MARIJUANA CAN BE DETECTED IN THE URINE FOR UP TO 45 DAYS.